

## **REMARKS**

The title has been changed to --A POWER SUPPLY CONTROL METHOD-- as suggested by the Examiner.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to make editorial changes thereto and generally improve the form thereof, and a substitute specification and abstract are provided. No new matter has been added by the substitute specification and abstract.

Claims 5 and 6 have been canceled, and claims 7-25 have been added. New claims 7-25 have been drafted taking into account the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, issues raised by the Examiner, are believed to be free of these issues, and are otherwise believed to be in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The instant invention pertains to a power supply control method for an electronic component mounting apparatus. Conventional electronic component mounting apparatus utilize a power supply manner that suffers from drawback as expressed on pages 1-4 of the original specification. Applicants have addressed and resolved this drawback by providing a unique power supply control method.

Specifically, in an electronic component mounting apparatus which is to mount electronic components onto an object, halting of operation of a device of the electronic component mounting apparatus is detected, and then a supply of driving electric power to the device is stopped while a supply of an operational control electric power to the device is maintained, wherein the halting of the operation results from a cause other than a shut off of power supply to the electronic component mounting apparatus.

For example, while waiting for an object to be fed so as to have components mounted thereto, driving electric power to a component feed device, a component transfer device and an object positioning device is stopped while a supply of operational control electric power is maintained to these devices. As another example, when there is a shortage of components, the component feed device has the electric driving power thereto stopped, while supply of operational control electric power is maintained to this device. By performing such a power

supply control method, power consumption is reduced as compared with the conventional component electronic mounting apparatus.

Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and Lee is not applicable with regard to the newly added claims for the following reasons.

Initially, former claims 5 and 6, and newly presented claims 7-25, specifically relate to a power supply control method for an **electronic component mounting apparatus**. To the contrary, though Lee does disclose a power supply control method, this method is not for an electronic component mounting apparatus. Indeed, Lee is concerned with an automatic power regulator for controlling an induction type biogas generator. There is nothing in Lee that can be said to correspond to an electronic component mounting apparatus, and accordingly, neither claims 5 and 6, nor claims 7-25, are anticipated by Lee.

Additionally, the Examiner states that the method of Lee can be used in an electronic component mounting apparatus; however, concluding that a method can be used in a certain environment is not sufficient to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness. In this regard, there must be some motivation or suggestion to combine Lee with an electronic component mounting apparatus, which motivation has not been provided. Thus, claims 7-25 are also not obvious over Lee.

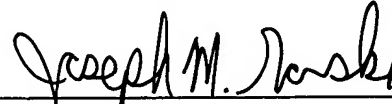
Furthermore, each dependent claim is believed to be patentable in its own right because it more specifically recites the manner by which the electronic component mounting apparatus is controlled. That is, these claims either recite the devices of the electronic component mounting apparatus that are detected to be in a halting condition, or the cause of the halting condition.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, with the allowed claims being 7-25, and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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